

## Ala. Retirement System gets green light for eighth facility

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — An environmentally sensitive tract of land along the Alabama Gulf Coast has been preserved and development of a 54-hole golf complex approved after weeks of complicated negotiations.

"There won't be a state park in the United States that will even come close to that type of golf facility," said Jim Martin, commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, of the complex to be built on state property near Romar Beach.

Martin and David G. Bronner, chief executive of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, huddled with officials of the city of Orange Beach, which owned a nearby piece of property that figured in the development.

The park system will acquire 580 acres of undeveloped land from Orange Beach, which bought the property for \$1.3 million many years ago. Orange Beach will receive a portion of the green fees at three 18-hole courses to be developed by the Retirement Systems.

The courses, designed by noted architect Robert Trent Jones, will be built on about 420 of the 800 acres at the Gulf State Park parcel. Development cost will be about \$16 million.

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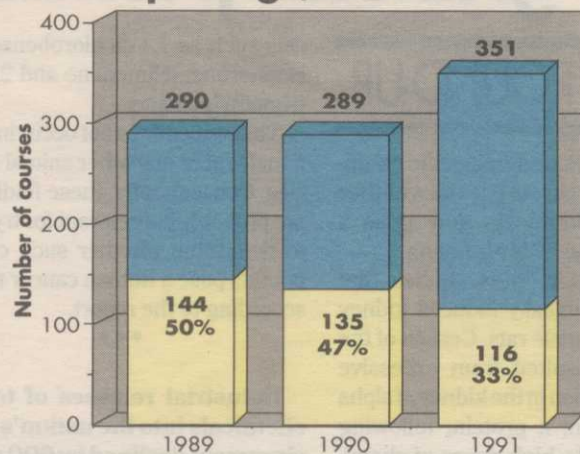
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## Real-estate related course openings, 1989-91



Source: Pannell Kerr Forster

## Supers counter course bashing

HILO, Hawaii — "Golf course bashing" linked to chemicals used to maintain courses was flayed by course superintendents Bob Itamoto and Neil "Buster" Bustamente at a recent meeting of the Hawaii County Council's Planning Committee.

Itamoto has been superintendent at Mauna Kea Beach Hotel for 27 years, Bustamente head of Mauna Lani Resort's courses for 10 years.

Detailing how their courses are watered and fertilized, they said little pesticides and her-

bicides are used to maintain the courses. They denied poisoning the coastal areas of the Big Island or using water needed for domestic consumers.

Blaming the media, Bustamente declared that much of what has been said about environmental hazards involving golf courses has been untrue and based on false assumptions or misunderstandings.

Council members say some agency should monitor pesticides, fungicides and other chemicals used on golf courses.

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